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This information is compiled from the official records in the office of the municipal judge of Ponce. The population given (49,000) is taken from the last census of the city, made under the Spanish regime in 1897, and represents the Ponce jurisdiction which includes the city and its port and a portion of the district of Ponce. Deaths are reported from the same area. The population, so far as I can learn, has changed little in the last ten years and the figures given may be taken for the whole period. This census is not reckoned as a very accurate one, but no other figures are obtainable.

The question asked as to the healthfulness of this city can, I think, be answered in the affirmative, despite the large death rate shown by the above figures. I do not think the climate is responsible for the large death rate so much as the character of the population. A large part of the people belong to the poorer classes and live under the worst hygienic conditions. The enormous death rate for the current year is due to the large number of lives lost in the hurricane and flood of August 8. The two preceding years also show an increase; and this, I am told, was due to increased poverty and misery among the poorer classes at that time, from poor crops or other similar causes. It is not to be forgotten, too, that the war was in progress during a portion of that period. This climate for a large part of the year is quite damp, and the hygienic condition of the city is poor, though it is being improved. The Americans who are living here, however, are, in the main, enjoying good health, and nearly all speak well of the climate from the point of view of personal health. The most common diseases are tuberculosis, malaria, and various anæmias. There is little typhoid fever reported. Of course, a tropical climate is trying to a newcomer, and a certain amount of acclimation is necessary, but, on the whole, I regard this as a healthful place.

Respectfully,

C. H. LAVINDER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report from San Juan—Mortality rate for ten years.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 10, 1899.*

SIR: In compliance with Bureau indorsement, dated October 21, 1899, of letter of Mr. F. L. Hoffman, of Newark, N. J., requesting mortality statistics of Porto Rico, I have the honor to furnish the following information:

The population of San Juan in 1889, according to the census of the Spanish Government, was 27,327. It is now reported to be about 34,000. The United States census commission is now engaged in taking the census of the entire island.

The mortality reports for the past ten years, 1889–1898, taken from the records of the municipal judge, are as follows: 1889, 899 deaths; 1890, 908 deaths; 1891, 857 deaths; 1892, 866 deaths; 1893, 849 deaths; 1894, 1,031 deaths; 1895, 1,154 deaths; 1896, 959 deaths; 1897, 1,272 deaths; 1898, 916 deaths.

Total number of deaths for ten years, 9,711. Averaging the population for the ten years at 30,500, the death rate per thousand inhabitants is 31.83.

The city of San Juan is situated on a high promontory and is well drained. It is also much benefited by the trade winds, which blow almost the entire year. There are no contagious diseases in the city, nor in the island, and not a single case of yellow fever has made its appearance this year.

The Americans residing in this city and vicinity are apparently in the best of health, and are much pleased with the climate. On the whole, I consider this city fairly healthy, and believe that Americans will have as good health here as elsewhere, if they take ordinary care of themselves.

Inclosed is a report of Asst. Surg. C. H. Lavinder in regard to the city of Ponce, giving mortality statistics of that city.

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.